

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3961**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2/4/2018

**START-UPS UNDER NIDHI SCHEME**

3961. SHRI K.K. RAGESH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Start-ups supported under the National Institute for Development and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) scheme so far, including details of projects and funds allocated so far;
- (b) whether projects for technology adaptation in traditional sector are supported under the scheme; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF  
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) The Department of Science & Technology has launched an umbrella initiative titled 'National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations' (NIDHI). The program was launched in 2016-17 for nurturing knowledge-based and technology-driven innovations and startups. The programme is in-line with the national priorities and goals and its focus is to build an Innovation, Science and Technology driven entrepreneurial ecosystem. NIDHI aims to nurture start-ups through scouting, supporting and scaling of innovations and Science and Technology research outcomes. Following programs under NIDHI support start-ups and innovators:

1. NIDHI Centres of Excellence (NIDHI-COE): A state of the art, world class facility to provide incubation support to start-ups.
2. NIDHI-Technology Business Incubator (NIDHI-TBI): Converting Innovations to start-ups.
3. NIDHI-Seed Support System: Providing early stage investment to start-ups.
4. NIDHI-PRomotion and Acceleration of Young and Aspiring technology entrepreneurs (NIDHI-PRAYAS): Support from Idea to Prototype.

NIDHI Technology Business Incubators are established primarily in and around academic, technical and management institutions to tap innovations and technologies for venture creation by utilizing expertise and infrastructure already available with the host institution. Through the NIDHI-TBIs, startups are supported by providing cost effective value added services like mentoring, financial, technical, accounting and intellectual property related services. Usually 10-15 startups operate in a TBI at a time. NIDHI CoE is scale-up support to a performing TBI to become a world class facility for incubation of startups. NIDHI CoE can accommodate 40-50 ventures at a time. Under NIDHI PRAYAS program, a funding support upto Rs. 10.00 lakh per startup/innovator is given for proof-of-concept and prototyping grant. Under NIDHI Seed Support System, a seed funding upto Rs.100.00 lakh is provided to a startup through a TBI for furtherance of their businesses.

Number of projects and startups/innovators supported:

Name of the Program	Number of Centres/ projects supported	Number of Startups/innovators supported in a year
NIHI CoE	3	120
NIDHI TBI	10	100
NIDHI SSS	12	45
NIDHI PRAYAS	10	100

(b) & (c): The startups and innovators supported under the NIDHI program are sector agnostic. Innovations in traditional sectors can also be supported through NIDHI programs. The startups supported are in various technology domains like Electronics, Information & Communication Technology, Fintech, Bio-technology, Agri businesses, Design, Medical devices, Healthcare, Engineering etc.

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